

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCA-01 PPT-02 VO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 OC-06 CCO-00

RSR-01 /127 W

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R 191814 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0537

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2972

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, LY, AG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORTS

REF: STATE 117463

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM AT JUNE 19  
POLADS MEETING REVEALED THAT ALL ALLIES EXCEPT US, NETHERLANDS  
AND BELGIUM EITHER HAVE ADOPTED OR PLAN ADOPT " COMPROMISE"  
FORMULA FOLLOWED BY FRENCH. HOWEVER, ALLIES ADOPTING THIS  
POLICY DO NOT AGREE ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT ASPECTS, PARTICULARLY  
WHETHER LARG SHOULD BE REQUIRED RECIPROCATATE. ALTHOUGH US  
REP ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST GIVING IN AT THIS TIME, WE BELIEVE  
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MOST WILL FOLLOW FRENCH, LEAVING US IN POSITION OF RELATIVE  
ISOLATION VIS- A- VIS LARG. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE STRESSING RELUCTANCE WITH WHICH STEP WAS TAKEN,

FRG, ITALIAN, CANADIAN, NORWEGIAN, DANISH, GREEK, TURKISH, AND UK REPS ADVISED THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES HAD EITHER DECIDED TO FOLLOW FRENCH EXAMPLE OF PLACING ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP IN PASSPORT OR WERE ON VERGE OF TAKING SUCH A DECISION. ITALIAN AND NORWEGIAN REPS INDICATED THAT DECISION ALREADY IMPLEMENTED. ALL REPS MENTIONED ABOVE STRESSED THAT MEASURE WAS SEEN AS TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT AND THAT STAMPS WOULD BE ADDED TO PASSPORTS ONLY UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE REPS ALSO STRESSED THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES DECIDED ON THIS STEP IN PART BECAUSE OF OTHER ALLIES ( E. G., FRANCE) WERE TENDING IN THIS DIRECTION. AS ADDITIONAL REASON FOR HMG DECISION, UK REP CITED HUMAN PROBLEM POSED BY PENDING TRAVEL BY STUDENTS TO SPEND SUMMER HOLIDAYS WITH PARENTS IN LIBYA. ITALY AND UK INTEND INFORMING LARG OF THEIR DECISION IN ORDER TO CONFIRM ACCEPTABILITY OF PROCEDURE AND, AT LEAST IN ITALIAN CASE, TO URGE RECIPROCITY. A SIMILAR DEMARCHE IS BEING PLANNED BY FRG. WHEN US REP ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY FRESH EVIDENCE OF ACCEPTABILITY TO LARG OF FRENCH COMPROMISE, UK REP VOLUNTEERED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FRENCH PASSPORT HOLDERS ARE ENTERING NOW WITH NO DIFFICULTY.

2. ALTHOUGH MAJORITY OF ALLIES INDICATED THEIR AUTHORITIES WOULD FOLLOW FRENCH LEAD, TWO MAJOR DIFFERENCES EMERGED IN MANNER ALLIES PLAN IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY:

A. RECIPROCITY. FRENCH, WITH PERSONAL SUPPORT OF UK REP, REPEATED ARGUMENT THAT DEMAND FOR RECIPROCITY WAS UNWISE IN THAT IT WOULD, IF ACCEPTED, TEND TO PERPETUATE SITUATION, GREEK, TURKISH, ITALIAN, CANADIAN AND FRG REPS ARGUED IN FAVOR OF DEMANDING RECIPROCITY BY LARG, POINTING OUT, INTER ALIA, THAT WITHOUT DEMAND FOR RECIPROCITY LARG WOULD BE GIVEN PAINLESS VICTORY. US REP ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR RECIPROCITY.

B. WHICH CATEGORIES RECEIVE STAMP? ALTHOUGH MOST REPS STRESSED THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES PLANNED PLACE ARABIC STAMPS IN VERY SMALL NUMBER OF PASSPORTS, THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CATEGORIES WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED OR EXCLUDED FROM THIS SERVICE. US REP POINTED OUT, AND SEVERAL OTHERS AGREED, THAT THIS LACK OF CONSISTENCY AMONG ALLIES WAS DANGEROUS, PARTICULARLY IN THAT IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE LARG TO ABOLISH PRESENT EXEMPT CATEGORIES.

3. US REP DREW FULLY ON REFTTEL IN EXPLAINING WHY WE COULD NOT ACCEPT COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY FRENCH AND URGING THAT OTHER ALLIES ALSO HOLD OFF, AT LEAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1 EGYPT-LARG MERGER. HE WARNED THAT IF ALLIES GIVE IN TO LARG, THIS WOULD WEAKEN ANY ARGUMENTS SADAT MIGHT RAISE AGAINST ADOPTING LARG PRACTICE AFTER MERGER. IN CONCLUSION, US REP POINTED OUT GREAT DIVERSITY AMONG ALLIED POSITIONS SINCE EVEN THOSE

FAVORING FRENCH COMPROMISE AS BASIS FOR NEW POLICY HAD  
DIFFERENT IDEAS ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION. ON THIS BASIS,  
US REP SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES WERE BEST ADVISED STICK  
WITH EXISTING POLICY, EVEN IF ONE OR TWO HAD BROKEN RANKS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE WERE SYMPATHETIC  
TO US ARGUMENTS, IT IS CLEAR THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WILL  
ADOPT VARIATION OF FRENCH COMPROMISE. MANY WERE CLEARLY  
LOOKING FOR WAY OUT OF ARGUMENT WITH LARG AND EAGERLY  
GRASPED AT FRENCH MOVE AS SIGN THAT ALLIED SOLIDARITY  
WAS BREACHED AND CONSEQUENTLY ACCOMMODATION WITH LARG NEEDED.  
FOR THE MOMENT, DUTCH AND BELGIANS ARE HOLDING OUR, BUT  
BELGIANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO JOIN MAJORITY. SINCE NEITHER BELGIUM  
OR NETHERLANDS ACCOUNT FOR SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS TO  
LARG, DECISION OF UK, FRG, ITALY AND OTHER ALLIES TO FOLLOW  
FRENCH LEAD MEANS THAT US WILL BE EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED AND  
PERHAPS CONVENIENT TARGET FOR LARG. SHOULD WASHINGTON DECIDE TO  
MODIFY US POSITION, WE SUGGEST THAT MISSION BE GIVEN TIME TO  
EXPLAIN THIS MOVE TO BELGIANS AND DUTCH TO ALLOW THEM TO MAKE  
ANY ADJUSTMENTS THEY MAY DESIRE IN THEIR POLICY. MCAULIFFE

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**To:** STATE INFO ANKARA  
BEIRUT  
BONN  
THEHAGUE  
LONDON  
PARIS  
ROME

TRIPOLI  
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CAIRO

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